

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An isolated and purified biologically active Ring box protein comprising a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1.

2-6. (Canceled)

² ~~2~~ (Previously presented) A recombinant Ring box protein comprising a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1.

8-23. (Canceled)

³ ~~3~~ (Previously presented) The Ring box protein of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is human.

⁴ ~~4~~ (Previously presented) A Ring box protein according to Claim ² ~~7~~, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

⁵ ~~5~~ (Previously presented) A Ring box protein according to Claim ² ~~7~~, prepared by the method of culturing ^{isolated (EXAMINER)} a cell containing an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 under conditions suitable for expression of the nucleic acid molecule.

⁶ ~~6~~ (Previously presented) A protein complex comprising the Ring box protein of Claim 1 or Claim ² ~~7~~.

⁷ ~~7~~ (Previously presented) The protein complex of Claim ⁶ ~~7~~, further comprising one or more proteins selected from the group consisting of a cullin protein, a substrate recognition protein, and a linker protein.

~~28~~⁸. (Previously presented) The protein complex of Claim ~~28~~⁷ wherein the complex is a ubiquitin ligase protein complex.

~~9~~¹⁰. (Previously presented) The protein complex of Claim ~~29~~⁸ wherein the ubiquitin ligase protein complex is selected from the group consisting of SCF and VHL.

~~31~~¹⁰. (Previously presented) The ubiquitin ligase protein complex of Claim ~~29~~⁸ wherein the cullin protein is selected from the group consisting of Cdc53, Cullin 1, Cullin 2, Cullin 3, Cullin 4A, Cullin 4B, and Cullin 5.

~~32~~¹¹. (Previously presented) The ubiquitin ligase protein complex of Claim ~~29~~⁸ wherein the substrate recognition protein is selected from the group consisting of β -TRCP, Cdc4, Grrl, VHL and Elongin C binding proteins.

~~33~~¹². (Previously presented) The ubiquitin ligase protein complex of Claim ~~29~~⁸ wherein the linker protein is selected from the group consisting of Skp 1 and Elongin C.